



*Protecting our land, air and water
to preserve our way of life in harmony with all species.*

Our Earth, Our Home ... Let's Protect It by Changing Simple Habits “Stamp out Styrofoam!” in April

As many of you know, Earth Day 2011 is right around the corner. The staff of the Community Development Department, Environmental Protection & Natural Resources Division (CDD/EPNR), we are encouraging you to make every day – Earth Day.

Because protecting the environment is everyone's responsibility, we've launched a Clean & Green Campaign to celebrate Earth Year. Every month, in this column, we are showing you how you can change one habit that can make a real and positive difference for our land, our air and our water. At the end of the 12 months, you will have adopted 12 new habits to help protect your home.

During the month of April, we ask you to “Stamp out Styrofoam!” by following these simple steps:

Make it a habit to stamp out styrofoam!

- If possible do not use Styrofoam. Switch to reusable mugs and plates.
- Choose biodegradable and compostable food service and packaging disposables made from sugarcane fiber, bamboo or corn plastic. To find out what is available check out these websites:

<http://www.ecoproducts.com>

<http://www.biodegradablestore.com>

<http://www.treecycle.com>

- Request that local take-out places use alternative choices.

Why is it important to Stamp out Styrofoam?

FACT: Styrofoam is made from petroleum based chemicals, a non-sustainable, polluting and disappearing commodity. (Source: <http://www.verdant.net>)

FACT: Styrofoam breaks down very slowly. As it breaks down, it can leach styrene, a contaminant, into the groundwater. (Source: National Resources Defense Council)

FACT: Enough Styrofoam is created each year to circle the earth well over 400 times if linked together. (Source: <http://recycling-fact.net>)

FACT: Over 73 billion Styrofoam cups and plates are thrown away each year in the U.S. (Source: Environmental Protection Agency)

FACT: Styrofoam is not easily recycled. Polystyrene cups are not remanufactured into cups, but into other products, such as packing fillers and trays. (Source: Citizen's Clearinghouse for Hazardous Waste.)

FACT: Even 500 years from now, foam coffee cups will still be in the landfill. (Source: Recycler's Handbook.)



To know more about the Clean & Green Campaign or to be part of the Healthy Habits Team, contact the EPNR Hotline at 480-362-7500 or by email EPNR@SRPMIC-nsn.gov